Sri Katapady Vishwanatha Kshetra, Udupi, Karnataka

Info is given under following headings:

Location, address, phone, how to get there. Greatness of this temple. Legends and history. Architecture of temple deities. Subdeities daily rituals and poojas and their charges, special poojas and rituals and their charges, festivals, facilities for devotees...like accommodation etc. Donation info and bank acct number etc. Nearby temples. Other tourist attractions. Nearby budget hotels. Any other info...etc

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Here is detailed information on Sri Katapady Vishwanatha Kshetra (also known as Shree Vishwanatha Kshethra or Katapadi Shri Vishwanatha Kshetra), a popular Shiva temple in Udupi district, Karnataka.

It is a revered Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Vishwanatha (Lord Shiva as the Lord of the Universe), known locally as one of the prominent holy places in the region.

Location and Address

Village/Town: Katapady (also spelled Katpadi), Udupi Taluk, Udupi District, Karnataka, India.

It is situated about 10-12 km from Udupi city center, along the Udupi-Mangalore route.

Full address: Shree Vishwanatha Kshethra, Katapady, Udupi - 576113, Karnataka.

Phone/Contact

Phone: 0820-2557060 (as listed in local directories like Justdial; this is the primary contact number for inquiries).

Facebook page: Vishwanatha Kshetra (@katapadivishwanatha) – you can check for updates or messages.

No official website found, but it has an active social media presence on Facebook and Instagram for events.

How to Get There

By Air: Nearest airport is Mangalore International Airport (IXE), about 50-60 km away. From there, take a taxi or bus to Udupi, then local transport to Katapady.
By Train: Udupi Railway Station (UD) is the closest, around 10-12 km from Katapady. From the station, take an auto-rickshaw, taxi, or local bus.

By Road/Bus: Well-connected via NH-66 (Udupi-Mangalore highway). Frequent KSRTC and private buses from Udupi bus stand to Katapady (short ride, 20-30 minutes). From Mangalore or other nearby towns, direct buses pass through Katapady.

Local autos/taxis are easily available from Udupi.

Greatness of this Temple

This temple is considered a significant Shiva kshetra in coastal Karnataka (Tulu Nadu region), popular among devotees for its spiritual vibrations and association with Lord Shiva.

It attracts locals and visitors seeking blessings for peace, health, and prosperity.
It is listed among key temples in Udupi Taluk and has a strong community following, especially among Billawa and other local communities.
The temple underwent major renovation/reconstruction around 2013-14 and Brahmakalashotsava in 2014, making it a renewed center of devotion.

Legends and History

Specific ancient legends (like those of Kashi Vishwanath) are not widely documented for this temple in public sources. It originated as a Bajana Mandir (devotional singing hall) in 1934 to spread divine messages of Lord Shiva.

It evolved into a full-fledged temple over time.

The current structure was renovated/reconstructed in 2013-14 (with a time-lapse video available online documenting the devotion-filled process).

Brahmakalashotsava (consecration ceremony) was held in 2014 under spiritual guidance (e.g., from Shivagiri Math). It has grown into a popular local pilgrimage spot.

Architecture of the Temple and Deities

The temple follows traditional South Indian (Karnataka coastal) style, with recent modern renovations for better facilities.

Main deity: Lord Vishwanatha (Lord Shiva) as the presiding deity.

It is a Shiva temple, often featuring typical Shiva linga worship.

Sub-deities: Common in such temples include Parvati (as Vishalakshi or similar), Ganapathi, Subramanya/Kartikeya, Nandi, and possibly Navadurga forms (given annual Nava Durga festivals).

Specific sub-deities may include auxiliary shrines for other gods/goddesses typical in Shiva temples.

Daily Rituals, Poojas, and Charges

Daily poojas follow standard Shiva temple schedules (e.g., morning abhisheka, alankara, naivedya, evening aarti).

Exact timings and charges are best confirmed by calling the temple (0820-2557060), as they vary. Common offerings include archana, abhisheka, etc., with nominal charges (often ₹50-500 depending on type).

No detailed public list found online; temples usually display boards or provide on-site.

Special Poojas, Rituals, and Charges

Special sevas like Rudrabhisheka, Laghurudra, or homas are performed on request.

Charges are reasonable and vary (typically ₹500-5000+ for elaborate ones).

During festivals, special rituals are conducted.

Festivals

Annual Utsava (festival) is a major event, including Nava Durga Vaibhava (celebrations honoring nine forms of Durga), Rathotsava (chariot festival), and other cultural programs, bali, stage events.

Recent videos show daytime Rathotsava and Nava Durga events in 2026.

Other common Shiva festivals: Maha Shivaratri, Pradosha, etc.

The temple hosts vibrant community celebrations with processions and devotion.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.)

Basic facilities available; no large-scale temple-run guest houses mentioned.

For accommodation, devotees often stay in nearby Udupi (which has many options).

Nearby budget hotels (within 5-10 km in Udupi/Katapady area):

Options like lodges or budget stays around ₹500-2000/night (e.g., areas near Udupi Krishna Temple or local spots). Check platforms like Trip.com for hotels near Katapadi Shri Vishwanatha Kshetra.
Udupi has many affordable hotels, guest houses, and mutt accommodations.

Donation Info and Bank Account

Donations are accepted for temple maintenance, festivals, etc. Specific bank account details are not publicly listed online (to avoid misuse); contact the temple directly via phone

(0820-2557060) or Facebook page for official donation methods, receipts, or bank transfer info.
Many such temples accept contributions via cash/cheque on-site or through trusted committees.

Nearby Temples

- Shri Venkataramana Temple, Katapadi (Vaishnava temple, nearby).
- Famous Udupi Shri Krishna Matha/Temple (10-12 km).
- Ananteshwara Temple, Chandramauleshwara Temple in Udupi.
- **Other local:** Shri Mahisha Mardini Temple (nearby areas), Anegudde Vinayaka Temple (slightly farther).
- Katapady also has Shri Ananthanatha Swamy (Jain temple) and others.

Other Tourist Attractions Nearby

- Udupi beaches (e.g., Malpe Beach ~15-20 km).
- Manipal (educational hub, End Point, ~10 km).
- Krishna Temple and Paryaya festivities in Udupi.
- St. Mary's Island, Kaup Beach.
- Murudeshwar Temple (farther north).

Any Other Info

This is a peaceful, community-oriented temple with high ratings (4.7/5 on local sites) and active festivals. It's especially vibrant during annual utsavas.

For the latest on timings, poojas, or events, call the temple or check their Facebook/Instagram. Devotees often combine visits with Udupi's main Krishna Temple.

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Ref: Google Gemini

Preface: The Spiritual and Social Beacon of Katapady

Introduction

This document serves as a comprehensive guide and historical record of Sri Katapady Vishwanatha Kshetra, a sacred sanctuary located in the heart of Udupi District, Karnataka.

More than just a place of worship, this Kshetra stands as a living monument to the spiritual awakening and social reformation of the coastal Karnataka region.

Dedicated to Lord Vishwanatha (Shiva), the temple is deeply rooted in the egalitarian philosophy of the great saint and reformer, Shri Narayana Guru.

The Vision of Equality

At the core of this temple's existence is the revolutionary mantra:

> "**One Caste, One Religion, One God for Mankind"**
>
Established in an era when social barriers restricted spiritual access, Sri Katapady Vishwanatha Kshetra was envisioned as a "Sivagiri of the North" (referencing the Guru's headquarters in Kerala).

It was built to ensure that the light of divinity shines equally upon all, regardless of caste, creed, or social standing.

The temple reflects the Guru's call to "Gain Freedom through Education and Strength through Organization."

Scope of this Record

Within the following pages, you will find a detailed compilation of:

* **Geographic & Logistics**: Precise location data and travel guides for pilgrims.

* **Historical Timeline**: From the initial Bhajana Mandir in 1934 to the grand Prathista in 1964.

* **Divine Architecture**: Descriptions of the main Shivalinga and the sub-deities including Shri Narayana Guru, Ganapathi, and Subramanya.

* **Ritualistic Splendor**: A breakdown of daily Nitya Vidhis, special Sevas, and the vibrant annual Car Festival (Rathotsava).

* **Philosophical Context**: A tribute to the life and legacy of Shri Narayana Guru, whose teachings continue to guide the administration and the devotees.

Purpose

This record is intended for devotees, researchers, and travelers seeking to understand the unique blend of Tulu Nadu traditions and Narayana Guru's reformist ideals.

It is a tribute to the collective effort of the Billawa community and the thousands of donors who transformed a spiritual vision into a magnificent reality.

🙏 Closing Note

As you go through this document, let it be a reminder that a temple is not merely a structure of stone and mortar, but a powerhouse of "Atmavidya" (Self-Knowledge) and "Dharma" (Righteousness).

Sri Katapady Vishwanatha Kshetra is a prominent spiritual and social landmark in Katapady, near Udupi.

Established by the Billawa community, it is deeply rooted in the teachings of the great social reformer Shri Narayana Guru.

📍 Location and Travel

* **Address**: Sri Vishwanatha Kshetra, Katapady, Udupi District, Karnataka - 574105.

* **Phone**: 0820-2557060

* **How to Get There:**

  * **By Road:** It is situated on NH 66, about 7 km south of Udupi city and 50 km north of Mangalore. Local buses between Udupi and Mangalore stop at Katapady.

  * **By Rail**: The nearest major station is Udupi (UD), roughly 10 km away.

  * **By Air**: Mangalore International Airport (IXE) is about 45 km away.

📜 History and Legend

The temple's origins date back to 1934 as a Bhajana Mandir intended to spread the message of Shri Narayana Guru.

* **The Prophecy**: In 1941, while passing through Katapady, Shri Guruprasad Swamy (a disciple of Narayana Guru) reportedly felt a divine vibration and pointed out this specific spot for a temple.

* **Establishment**: The foundation stone was laid on March 14, 1943.

After years of community effort and donations from the Billawa fraternity (notably from Mumbai), the Prathista (consecration) was performed on February 16, 1964.

🏛️ Architecture and Deities

The temple follows the traditional coastal Karnataka architectural style with modern influences.

* **Main Deity**: Lord Vishwanatha (Shiva) in the form of a Shivalinga.

* **Sub-Deities**: The complex also houses shrines for Shri Narayana Guru, Lord Ganapathi, and Lord Subramanya. There are also dedicated spaces for local spirits (Daivas) common in the Tulu Nadu region.

🕯️ **Rituals, Poojas, and Festivals**

* Daily Rituals: Morning and evening Abhisheka and Mangalarathi.

* **Special Poojas**: Rudrabhisheka, Ganapathi Homam, and various sevas dedicated to Narayana Guru.

* **Note**: Pooja charges vary (ranging from ₹50 to ₹1000+ for grander rituals); it is best to check the current rate chart at the temple office upon arrival.

* **Annual Festival**: The Prathista Vardhanthosthava (Anniversary Festival) held in February is the biggest event, featuring grand processions, cultural programs, and community feeding (Annadhana).

🏨 **Facilities and Donations**

* **Accommodation**: The temple has basic guest house facilities for pilgrims.

For more variety, many budget hotels are available within a 1-2 km radius or in Udupi city.

* **Donations**: Contributions are accepted for Annadhana (free meals) and temple maintenance.

* **Bank Info**: Traditionally, the temple is managed by the Billawar Association. While specific bank details change, you can contact the office at the number above for the latest NEFT/IMPS details.

* **General Warning**: Always verify bank details directly with the temple office before transferring funds.

🗺️ **Nearby Attractions**

* **Temples**:

- * Udupi Sri Krishna Matha (7 km)
- * Pajaka Kshetra (Birthplace of Madhvacharya - 8 km)
- * Kunjarugiri Durga Devi Temple (High hilltop views - 6 km)

* **Tourism**:

* Kaup (Kapu) Beach & Lighthouse: 6 km away.
* Malpe Beach: 12 km away.

🛌 **Nearby Budget Hotels**

* Hotel Kediyoor (Udupi): Reliable and popular choice for families.
* Samanvay Boutique Hotel: Near the highway for easy transit.

* **Local Lodges**: Several small boarding houses are located right at the Katapady junction for very low-cost stays.

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More info on daily rituals, charges…etc

While the temple does not currently maintain an official website with a live digital rate chart, the following details are compiled based on traditional Tulu Nadu temple practices and records from the Katapady Billawar Association, which manages the Kshetra.

🕯️ **Daily Rituals (Nitya Vidhi)**

The temple follows a strict schedule of three main sessions:

* **Nirmalya Visarjane** (6:00 AM): Clearing of the previous day's flowers and the first bathing (Abhisheka) of the Shivalinga.

* **Pratha Pooja (**8:00 AM): Morning prayers with fresh flower offerings.

* **Mahapooja** (12:30 PM): The main ritual of the day, followed by Annadhana (Community Lunch).

* **Sandhya Pooja** (6:30 PM): Evening lamp lighting and prayers.

* **Rathri Pooja** (8:00 PM): Final ritual before the temple closes.

📋 **Popular Sevas and Estimated Charges**

Prices are subject to revision by the temple trust. It is recommended to verify at the "Seva Counter" upon arrival.

Seva Name	Description	Approx. Charge (₹)
Archana	Basic offering with name and Nakshatra.	20 – 50
Panchamrutha Abhisheka	Ritual bath using 5 sacred elements (milk, honey, etc.).	150 – 300
Rudrabhisheka	Chanting of Sri Rudram while bathing the Linga.	250 – 500
Kartika Pooja	Lighting of special lamps (popular in the month of Kartika).	100 – 200
Shani Pooja	Special prayers to Lord Shani (usually on Saturdays).	150 – 300
Nanda Deepa	Maintaining a lamp for a full day/week in your name.	250 – 1,000
Annadhana Seva	Sponsoring the afternoon meal for devotees.	5,000+

Special Poojas & Annual Events

* **Shri Narayana Guru Jayanthi:** Since this temple is dedicated to the ideals of the Guru, this day features elaborate processions and special homas (fire rituals).
* **Maha Shivaratri:** The biggest night for the temple. Rituals continue throughout the night with Yama Poojas. Charges for special Shivaratri sevas usually start from ₹500.
* **Prathista Vardhanthosthava** (February): The anniversary of the idol installation.

Large-scale Chandika Homa or Mahamrityunjaya Homa are often organized during this time. Sponsoring a portion of these rituals typically starts around ₹1,000 – ₹2,500.

🏛️ **Administration & Contact Tips**

The temple is governed by the Katapady Vishwanatha Kshetra Samithi.

* **Pooja Bookings**: Most sevas can be booked on the spot at the counter.

However, for Annadhana (Feeding) or Homas, it is best to call 0820-2557060 at least a week in advance.

* **Donations**: You can obtain a formal receipt for all donations. If you require their Bank Account Number (IFSC/Account) for a remote transfer, the office staff can provide the specific "Annadhana Trust" or "Temple General Fund" details over the phone to ensure security.

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For completeness of records, here are the **specific dates and details for the primary festivals at Sri Katapady Vishwanatha Kshetra for the year 2026.**

🕉️ **Maha Shivaratri 2026**

While the main fast was observed recently, the following timings are standard for the temple's annual records:

* Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026.

* Key Rituals:

    * **Jagaram**: Devotees stay awake all night chanting the Pancha-akshari Mantra ("Om Namah Shivaya").

    * Nishita Kaal Pooja: The most auspicious window occurred between 12:09 AM and 1:01 AM (early morning of Feb 16).
    * Four Prahar Poojas: Shiva is worshipped four times throughout the night with different offerings (Milk, Curd, Ghee, and Honey).

* **Significance**: It commemorates the day Lord Shiva performed the Tandava (Cosmic Dance) and the night of his marriage to Goddess Parvati.

🚩 Annual Car Festival (Vardhanthosthava) 2026

The Anniversary Festival of this temple is a massive week-long event that just concluded. It is more than a ritual; it's a cultural fair (Jathre) for the entire Katapady region.

Date (2026)	Event Name	Significance
Feb 9 (Mon)	Horekanike	A grand procession where devotees from nearby villages bring offerings (rice, vegetables, etc.) in decorated vehicles.
Feb 10 (Tue)	Dwajarohana	The ceremonial hoisting of the temple flag, marking the official start of the festival.
Feb 11 - 13	Utsava Bali	Daily ritualistic processions within the temple premises and cultural programs (Tulu dramas, Yakshagana).
Feb 15 (Sun)	Rathotsava	**The Grand Car Festival.** The deity is placed in a giant wooden chariot (Ratha) and pulled by thousands of devotees along the streets.
Feb 16 (Mon)	Avabritha Snana	The concluding ritual where the deity is taken for a holy dip in the temple tank or nearby water body.

Legend Reminder for the PDF

In records, you may note that this temple is unique because it was inspired by Sri Narayana Guru's "Shivagiri" model.

His philosophy—**"One Caste, One Religion, One God for Mankind"**—is the guiding force behind every ritual performed here, ensuring that the temple remains inclusive and socially progressive.

🏛️ Contact for Official Receipts

You may want to include the official administrative header for donations:

* Trust Name: Sri Vishwanatha Kshetra Samithi (Regd.)
* Location: Katapady, Udupi Dist, Karnataka - 574105.
* Primary Contact: 0820-2557060

Life and teachings of Shri Narayana Guru:

Adding the life and philosophy of Shri Narayana Guru (1856–1928) provides the essential soul to this write up. His presence is the reason the Katapady Kshetra exists as a beacon of social equality.

🕊️ Shri Narayana Guru: The Revolutionary Saint

Shri Narayana Guru was a philosopher, spiritual leader, and social reformer from Kerala who led a reform movement against the injustices in the caste-ridden society of South India.

His influence transformed the socio-religious landscape of Karnataka and Kerala.

🌟 Core Philosophy

The Guru's entire life was condensed into one powerful message (Maha Mantra):

> "Oru Jathi, Oru Matham, Daivam Manushyanu"
> (One Caste, One Religion, One God for Mankind)

>
📜 Key Life Milestones

* **Birth**: Born in 1856 in Chempazhanthy, Kerala, into the Ezhava community (historically marginalized).

* **The Aruvipuram Installation** (1888): In a historic act of defiance against caste restrictions, he consecrated a Shiva Linga at Aruvipuram.

When questioned by authorities, he calmly replied that he was installing a "non-Brahmin Shiva," asserting that God belongs to all.

* **Sivagiri Mutt:** He established the Sivagiri Mutt in Varkala as a center for spiritual and secular education.

* Education over Ritual: He famously said, "Gain freedom through education and gain strength through organization."

He urged his followers to build schools and industries rather than just temples.

🏛️ Connection to Katapady Kshetra

The Katapady temple is built on the "Sivagiri Model."

The Guru visited the coastal Karnataka region (Mangalore and Udupi) in the early 20th century, sparking a massive awakening among the Billawa community.

* **Equality in Worship**: Before this movement, many communities were barred from entering main temples.
The Guru encouraged the building of temples where anyone, regardless of caste, could offer prayers.

* **Cleanliness and Simplicity**: He insisted that temples should be clean, well-lit, and focus on meditation rather than expensive, complex animal sacrifices or rituals.

* **The "Mirror" Idol**: In some of his temples, he installed a mirror instead of an idol to signify that "God is within you."

While Katapady has a Shiva Linga, the underlying philosophy remains self-realization.

📝 Summary Table for the PDF

Aspect	Details
Title	Jagadguru Shri Narayana Guru
Major Works	*Atmopadesa Śatakam* (100 Verses on Self-Instruction), *Daiva Dasakam*
Social Impact	Abolished animal sacrifice, promoted widow remarriage, and universal education.
Legacy in Katapady	The temple serves as a "Guru Mandira," a place where his teachings are practiced daily through community service.

Final Addition Records

The "Katapady Resolution": It is worth noting that the Billawa community in Katapady was one of the first to formally adopt the Guru's teachings in the Udupi district, making this temple a historical "epicenter" for social change in coastal Karnataka.

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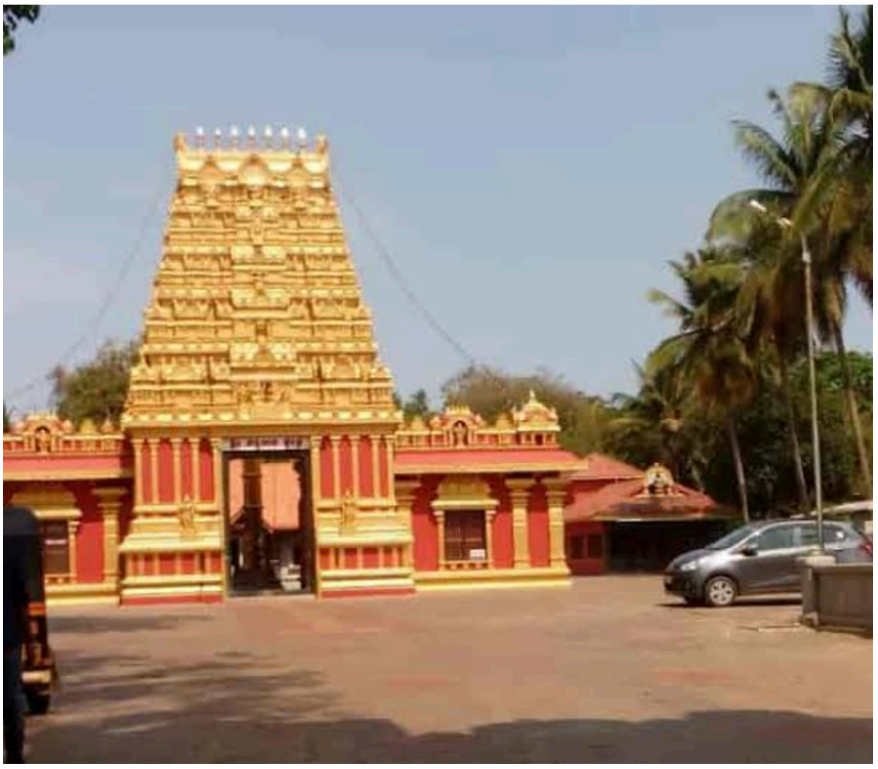
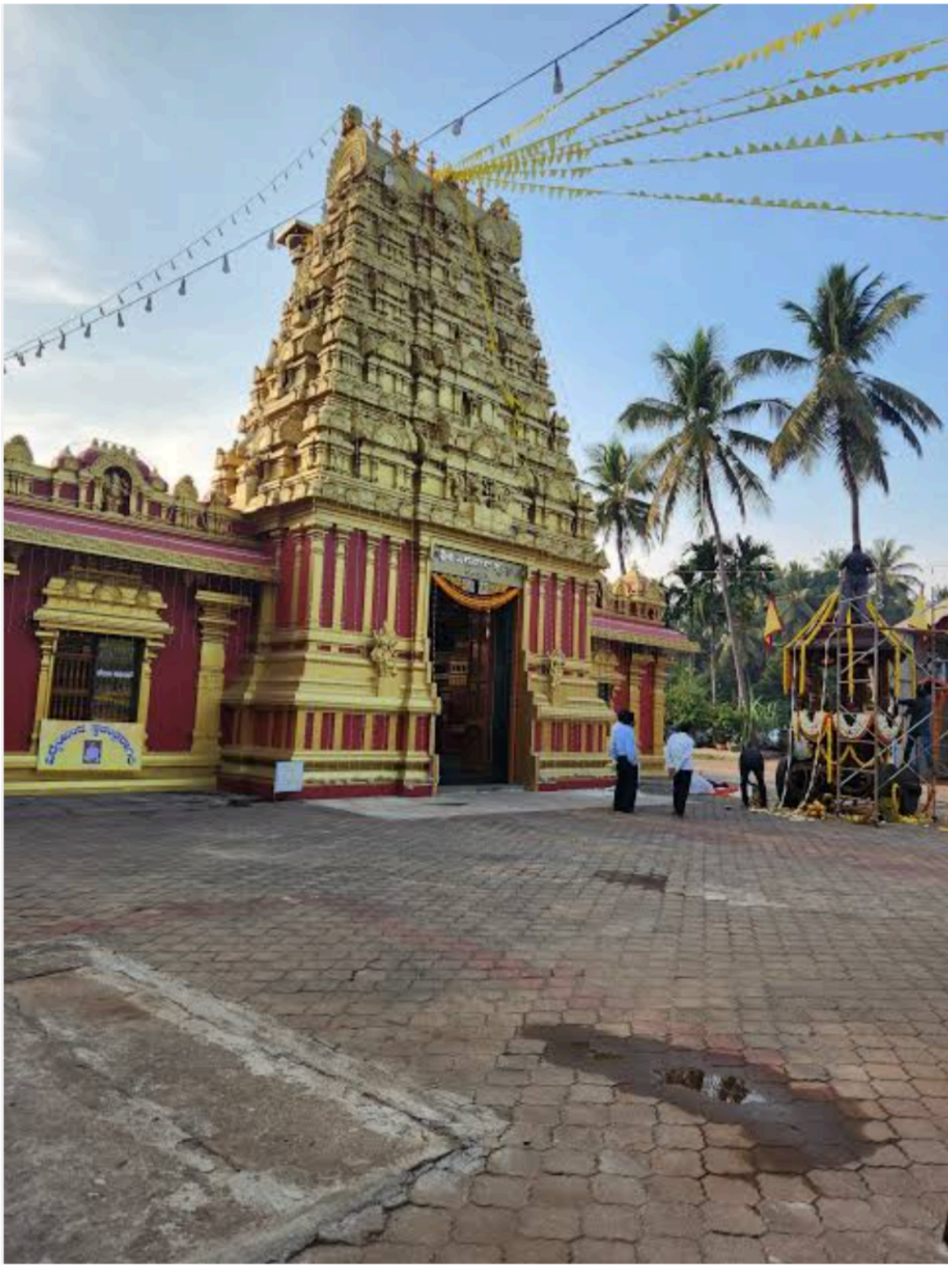
Photos





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Videos

Daytime Rathotsava 2026 (18 min):

https://youtu.be/ivsFrk6mA34?si=Dr0TOZfWv0ygRJER

Night Rathotsava 3026 (30 min):

https://youtu.be/rPvP-ZaVBAg?si=f7eQgJFbVbnCitXk

Okuli celebration - Vishwanatha Kshetra, Katapady (18 min):

https://youtu.be/vs1Hf94bsfQ?si=9El6Ng_ySeYiWDLq

Horekanike procession 2026 (9 min):

https://youtu.be/CCeWNHY-JY4?si=LfaaNL_l4bf6SYy0

Dhwajarohana 2026 (12 min):

https://youtu.be/pRvzTu3tgYs?si=olN6FE5oPEhYxTd9

Navadurga vaibhava 2026 (8 min):

https://youtu.be/tFvOr6ajSJQ?si=C3nv5yQMvLKGeChX

Kere deepotsava 2024(12 min):

https://youtu.be/EcGhuZblsKI?si=vbANAGnX3P6zOe36

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
February 18, 2026

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